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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CCWA Earns Two Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year Awards

Morrow, Georgia - - Clayton County Water Authority (CCWA) was honored by industry peers when it received 2011 Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year Awards for two of its water reclamation facilities during the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Spring Conference.

The Northeast Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) in Rex and the Shoal Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) in Hampton beat out fierce competition to earn these prestigious industry awards.

The Northeast WRF won for the 6.0 – 9.9 Million Gallons Per Day (MGD) Advanced Treatment Category while Shoal Creek WRF won for the 3.0 – 5.9 MGD Advanced Treatment Category.

Staff members from both facilities were recognized by the Water Authority Board of Directors during the board's monthly meeting on May 5.

"Our employees continue to show that they are the best in the industry," said Pete McQueen, Chairman of the CCWA Board of Directors. "We compete against the best in the state for these awards. It is important to us as board members to make sure our employees have the tools they need to be successful, but we wouldn't win these awards if it wasn't for the talent and skills our employees bring to the job everyday."

The formal Plant of the Year competition program is conducted statewide by GAWP and includes a comprehensive on-site evaluation performed by an expert technical inspection team. All of the systems under review possessed examples of exceptional operation, but only a select few rise to the top during this exhaustive process.

"Clayton County Water Authority is without question one of the top water utility leaders in Georgia," stated Bryan Wagoner, Communications Director for GAWP. "We are proud to recognize outstanding efforts to protect Georgia's water resources. This evaluation process is very comprehensive and it is the highest recognition offered by our Association."

According to CCWA Water Reclamation Manager Jim Poff, competition for these awards is fierce.

“It is a very difficult competition,” Poff stated during the board meeting. “The inspection committee does an all day audit and it not only includes looking at anything that has to do with the plant’s operations and maintenance, but also takes into consideration human resources, training, public education – really all areas here at the Authority.”

The Plant of the Year awards were announced during the GAWP 2011 Spring Conference in Macon in late April, where more than 600 water professionals from across the state gathered for technical discussions on how to protect, conserve, and manage Georgia’s precious water resources. Several municipalities/utilities were recognized for outstanding plant operations and exceptional infrastructure management related to drinking water distribution and wastewater collection.

The Georgia Association of Water Professionals is the State’s premier professional association for water, wastewater and related issues. GAWP was founded in 1932, and started the first license program for water professionals in Georgia. For over 75 years, GAWP has provided the bulk of certified professional training for water and wastewater operators here in Georgia. GAWP is the nation’s second largest state-level association of water professionals and is formally affiliated with several other national professional organizations.

Photo Cutline:

(Left to right) CCWA Water Reclamation Manager Jim Poff, GAWP President Tyler Richards and CCWA Natural Treatment Systems Supervisor Donnie Kiblinger after the spring conference awards luncheon.

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